

Message Text

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R 301210Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6676

INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 9007

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, BR

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL INDICATION THAT ARMED FORCES ACCEPT ELECTION RESULTS

REF: BRASILIA 8923

1. SUMMARY: SURING ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT MILITARY COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS IN THE BRAZILIAN CALENDAR, AN ARMED FORCES SPOKESMAN CLEARLY INDICATED THAT THE RESULTS OF THE RECENT ELECTION HAD BEEN ACCEPTED BY A BROAD CONSENSUS WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES. HIS STATEMENTS WERE ENTHUSIASTICALLY RECEIVED BY POLITICIANS OF BOTH PARTIES. END SUMMARY

2. ON NOVEMBER 27, DURING THE COMMEMORATION OF THE IMPORTANT ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEFEAT OF THE ATTEMPTED COMMUNIST PUTSCH OF 1935, THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER, AIR FORCE GENERAL OSWALDO TERRA DE FARIAS, GAVE THE FIRST PUBLIC INDICATION THAT THE RESULTS OF THE NOVEMBER 15 ELECTION HAD BEEN ACCEPTED BY A BROAD CONSENSUS WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES. GENERAL TERRA PRAISED THE GROWING ACCEPTANCE WITHIN BRAZIL OF "PRAGMATIC LIBERALISM", WHICH, "HARMONIZING... LIBERTY AND RESPONSIBILITY ... SEEKS THE COMMON GOOD." THIS ACCEPTANCE HAD BEEN
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GAINED, HE SAID, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF THE STATESMAN-

LIKE LEADERSHIP OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE CONCRETE MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPROVE THE LOT OF THE AVERAGE BRAZILIAN, BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF "THE REGULARITY WITH WHICH THE REVOLUTION HAS BEEN FULFILLING THE CALENDAR OF POLITICAL RENOVATION.. MAKING POSSIBLE THE RISE OF NEW LEADERSHIPS. IN THIS SENSE, THE LATEST EVENT (THE ELECTIONS)... REAFFIRMS THE IDEALS OF THE MARCH REVOLUTION, PROMULGATED AT THE THRESHOLD OF THE NEW ERA OF 1964, WHICH ENDED A PERIOD OF SHARP DECLINE OF THE PRINCIPLE OF AUTHORITY." AT THAT TIME, TERRA CONTINUED, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, MILITARY AND PSYCHOSOCIAL GOALS WERE ESTABLISHED AS A "POINT OF HONOR" BY THE NEW REGIME. "IN THE LIST OF THOSE GOALS, DEMOCRACY HOLDS A POSITION OF DESTINCTION, BECAUSE OF WHAT IT REPRESENTS IN DEFENSE OF SPIRITUAL FORCES, IN COMBAT AGAINST THOSE OF MATERIALISM; OF THE PRIMARY OF THE INDIVIDUAL OVER INHUMAN TOTALITARIANISM; OF THE RIGHT OF CHOICE OVER THE SINGLE OPTION; OF CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE, BASED ON THE FORCE OF IDEAS, AGAINST THE OPPRESSIVE MONOLOGUE BASED ON THE IDEA OF FORCE."

3. TERRA'S SPEECH IS BEING WIDELY REGARDED AS SIGNALLING MILITARY ACCEPTANCE OF THE RESULTS OF THE NOVEMBER 15 ELECTIONS (IN WHICH THE OPPOSITION MDB PARTY SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED ITS STRENGTH, BOTH ON THE FEDERAL AND STATE LEVELS), AND ENDORSEMENT OF AN CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE LEADERSHIP OF PRESIDENT GEISEL. THE SPEECH RECEIVED AN ENTHUSIASTIC WELCOME FROM POLITICAL LEADERS OF BOTH PARTIES, WHO DESCRIBED IT VARIOUSLY AS "MAGNIFICENT" (MDB SENATOR FRANCO-MONTORO), "EXACTLY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ARMED FORCES, THE PRESIDENT AND THE PEOPLE OF BRAZIL" (ARENA SENATOR VIRGILIO TAVORA), "AN ASSURANCE OF THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTION" (MDB DEPUTY LAERTE VIEIRA), "A REFLECTION OF THE CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN PRESIDENT GEISEL AND THE ARMED FORCES" (ARENA SENATOR JOSE SARNEY), AND "AN INDICATION THAT THE ARMED FORCES FINALLY ACCEPT

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THE NOTION THAT FORCE.. WHICH COERCES THE PEOPLE, BUT DOES NOT PERSUADE THEM, CAN ONLY HAVE NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FUTURE OF THE COUNTRY" (MDB "AUTENTICO" LYSANEAS MACIEL). THE TERRA SPEECH IS ALSO SEEN AS CLEARING THE WAY FOR, AND SETTING THE TONE OF, A MAJOR PRESIDENTIAL PRONOUNCEMENT ON THE RECENT ELECTIONS, EXPECTED TO BE MADE SOMETIME DURING THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 1.

4. COMMENT: SINCE HE WAS SPEAKING AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ARMED FORCES, WE BELIEVE THAT TERRA'S SPEECH WAS GIVEN ONLY AFTER THOROUGH CONSULTATION AMONG THE MOST POWERFUL SHAPERS OF OPINION WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES, AND THAT IT DOES, INDEED, REPRESENT THE COLLECTIVE WILL OF THE MILITARY MAINSTREAM. WE ARE ESPECIALLY STUCK BY THE SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE GIVEN TO THE TERRA SPEECH (A) BY ITS HAVING BEEN MADE ON A DAY NORMALLY GIVEN OVER TO A STRIDENT CONDEMNATION OF COMMUNISTS AND LEFTISTS, AND (B) BY ITS HAVING BEEN GIVEN BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF THAT BRANCH OF THE ARMED SERVICES WHICH HAS EARNED THE REPUTATION OF BEING THE MOST "RADICAL" (I.E., HARD-LINING) OF ALL THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE REVOLUTIONARY REGIMES. WE BELIEVE THE SPEECH WAS CLEARLY INTENDED AS A POWERFUL STATEMENT OF THE ARMED FORCES IN SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT GEISEL AT A TIME WHEN MISCHIEF-MAKERS MIGHT HAVE BEEN TEMPTED TO SEIZE UPON THE ELECTION RESULTS TO DISCREDIT HIS ADMINISTRATION; THE SPEECH, IN EXPLICITLY ACCEPTING THE ELECTION RESULTS, ALSO IMPLICITLY EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE GEISEL REGIME'S STATES GOAL OF "POLITICAL DECOMPRESSION".

5. IT SHOULD BE KEPT IN MIND, HOWEVER, THAT THE TERRA SPEECH, AND THE ATTITUDE IT REFLECTS ON THE PART OF THE MILITARY, WILL NOT PRECLUDE CONTINUING CRITICAL EVALUATION OF THE PERFORMANCE OF THE NEW CONGRESS, ESPECIALLY THAT OF ITS MORE LEFTWARD-LEANING MEMBERS, ON THE PART OF THE REGIME, NOR DOES IT PRECLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT ACTION AGAINST MOVES THAT MIGHT BE CONSIDERED PROVOCATIVE ON THE PART OF INDIVIDUAL CONGRESSMEN.
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